

The ROC teams with Board of Technical Registration for newly created drug lab clean-up program

Contractors have the opportunity to perform drug lab remediation, provided they have the proper licensing and certification with both the Arizona Registrar of Contractors and the Board of Technical Registration.

Starting July 1, 2003, firms that clean up sites used to manufacture substances such as LSD, Ecstasy and methamphetamine, must be licensed with both state agencies in order to operate in this capacity. The dangers associated with the production of these illegal substances include flammability, toxicity, reactivity, oxidation potential and corrosion. After initial clean up activities by law enforcement agencies, contamination can linger in a home's or building's ventilation system, plumbing and surfaces such as walls, carpeting and ceilings.

First, remediation firms are required to hold a current contractor's license, issued by the Arizona Registrar of Contractors (ROC), in a scope appropriate with the work being performed.

"Former clandestine drug laboratories pose a significant health and safety risk to the public," states ROC Director Israel G. Torres. "We will work closely with the Board of Technical Registration to ensure that the contractors performing this vital service are properly licensed with our agency."

Second, ROC-licensed contractors are required to be registered with the Board of Technical Registration (BTR) as a drug laboratory site remediation firm before doing clean-up work on a clandestine drug lab site. Firms must file an application with the BTR and are required to identify on the application form at least one certified on-site remediation supervisor. All on-site workers and on-site supervisors are required to attend mandatory training before being issued certifications. Additionally, all workers must be current with HAZWOPER training and must have attended a board-approved course covering illegal drug laboratory hazards and BTR statutes and rules. Registration and certification of workers and supervisors are one year in length and must be renewed annually before their expiration date.

The Clandestine Drug Laboratory Clean-Up Program was created by the State Legislature in the 2002 legislative session with the passage of HB2595. The law makes it unlawful to occupy residential property used to illegally manufacture LSD, Ecstasy or methamphetamine, identified and posted by law enforcement officials, unless the property has been cleaned up by a registered drug laboratory site remediation firm.

To learn more about becoming licensed with the Arizona Registrar of Contractors, call 602-542-1525 or toll-free outside Maricopa County at 888-271-9286, or visit www.rc.state.az.us.

A copy of HB2595 and the rules adopted by the BTR may be viewed at www.btr.state.az.us. For more information about drug lab remediation registration, contact Melinda Baughman at 602-364-4954 or by e-mail at btrmkb@yahoo.com.